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1 SHEET

COMPLETE SPECIFICATION
This drawing is a reproduction of
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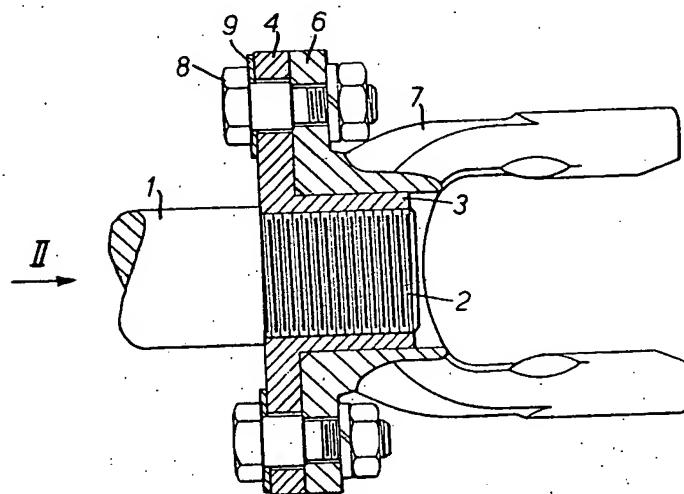


FIG.1.

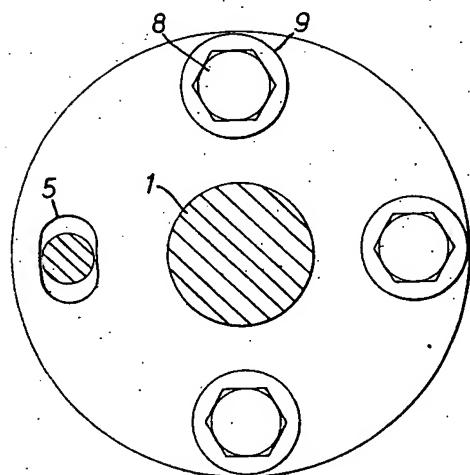


FIG.2.

PATENT SPECIFICATION

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DRAWINGS ATTACHED.



64
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COMPLETE SPECIFICATION.

Reaper Unit Drive on Tractors and Agricultural Machines.

We, JEAN WALTERSCHEID, a German national, of Siegburg, Alte Lohmarer Strasse 59, Germany, and BERNHARD WALTERSCHEIDMÜLLER, a German national, of Lohmar/Rhld, Haus Zur Buchbitze, Germany (personally-responsible partners of the firm of JEAN WALTERSCHEID KG.), do hereby declare the invention, for which we pray that a patent may be granted to us, and the method by which it is to be performed, to be particularly described in and by the following statement:—

This invention relates to reaper units on tractors or other agricultural machines, comprising a cutter bar of the reciprocating toothed type having co-operating fixed and oscillating toothed members whereof the oscillating toothed member is driven by a crank mechanism from a rotary drive 15 transmission connected to a power-take-off of the machine.

In reaper unit drives it is very difficult so to balance the rapidly reciprocating masses of the cutter beam and the crank rod as to eliminate vibration. In particular, conditions vary considerably in different speed ranges. Counterweights have been fitted to the drive crank in an attempt to reduce the effects of the forces of the 25 masses.

Oscillograph recordings have shown that these devices cannot completely eliminate the torsional vibrations in the drive elements as a result of the mass forces. The 30 torques fluctuating in the direction of rotation have a particularly harmful effect, since they result in premature damage of the securing and drive elements.

The object of the present invention is 35 to provide intermittent lost motion in the systems of parts liable to vibration, by the incorporation of an appropriate rotary play

in the drive at a suitable place for the same. Vibrational deflections are thus reduced and the negative parts of such deflections, i.e. those situated below the zero line, are cut off.

According to the present invention, the drive for the crank mechanism of a reaper unit of the type specified for a tractor or other agricultural machine includes at least two transmission members coupled together in such a way as to provide a limited rotary play between them, for example a play of between 5° and 20°.

The invention may be carried into practice in various ways, but one specific embodiment will now be described by way of example with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:—

Figure 1 is an axial section through a lost-motion connection in the drive to a reaper unit of a tractor; and

Figure 2 is an end view in partial section of the connection looking in the direction of the arrow 11 in Figure 1.

In the embodiment of the drawings an agricultural tractor carries a reaper unit (not shown) of the conventional reciprocating cutter bar construction, driven from the power-take-off of the tractor. The reaper unit comprises a fixed toothed cutter bar and a co-operating reciprocating toothed cutter bar which is caused to slide on and relatively to the fixed bar with a longitudinally - reciprocating motion by means of a crank mechanism whose crank-shaft is driven by a rotary transmission. The transmission is connected to the power-take-off of the tractor and includes a Cardan shaft having two aligned parts, between which a lost-motion coupling illustrated in Figures 1 and 2 is incorporated. The coupling comprises a screwthreaded

[Price 4s. 6d.]

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bush 3 provided with a flange 4 and mounted on the driving part 1 of the Cardan shaft, the part 1 terminating in a screwthreaded end 2, on which the bush 5 is mounted. The flange 4 is formed with four arcuate slots 5. The co-operating flange 6 of an articulated drive fork 7 carries four bolts 8 which permit a certain limited relative rotation between the two flanges 4 and 6. Spring washers 9 are positioned beneath the heads of the bolts 8 and press the flanges 4 and 6 gently into contact and thus give a certain additional frictional damping and prevent any rattling 10 and deflection of the components. Depending on requirements the rotary play is between 5° and 20°. The fork 7 comprises or is coupled to the output part of the Cardan 15 shaft drive for the crank mechanism of the reaper cutter bar.

WHAT WE CLAIM IS:—

1. A power-driven reaper unit of the type specified for a tractor or other agricultural vehicle, having a rotary drive 25 transmission for driving its crank mechanism which includes at least two aligned transmission members coupled together in such a way as to provide a limited degree of rotary play between them.

30 2. A reaper unit as claimed in Claim

1 in which the maximum rotary play is an angle of between 5° and 20°.

3. A reaper unit as claimed in Claim 1 or Claim 2 in which the coupled transmission members are disposed in a Cardan 35 shaft and are provided with stops to limit the rotary play.

4. A reaper unit as claimed in Claim 3 in which one of the coupled transmission members is a Cardan fork carrying stops 40 to limit its rotary play.

5. A reaper unit as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 4 in which the coupled transmission parts respectively include coaxial flanges one of which carries bolts 45 engaged in arcuate slots in the other flange to provide the required limited rotary play between the two flanges.

6. A reaper unit as claimed in Claim 5 in which the bolts are provided with spring washers which press the flanges resiliently 50 into light frictional engagement.

7. A power-driven reaper unit having a rotary drive transmission as specifically described herein with reference to the accompanying drawings.

KILBURN & STRODE,
Chartered Patent Agents,
Agents for the Applicants.

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